Tapioca in the State.

261. *Mr. K. Sankaralingam Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) the quantity of tapioca that is produced in the State ; and

(*b*) the months when it is ordinarily available ?

Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai: (*a*) About 4½ to 5 lakhs of tons of dry roots of tapioca are produced per annum.

(*b*) Ordinarily throughout the year.

Retirement of Officers.

262. *Mr. J. John Kattakayam: Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have decided to amend the Travancore Service Regulations so that officers who have put in 25 years' service, though they have not completed 55 years of age, could be retired without assigning any reasons therefor ?

Rao Bahadur A. Rangasvami Aiyar: The member is referred to Article 309 of the Travancore Service Regulations which has recently been amended as under :—

309. A retiring pension is granted to an officer who is either permitted to retire or required by Government to retire after completing qualifying superior service of not less than 25 years or such less time, as may for any special class of officers be prescribed

NOTE 1.—Government retains an absolute right to retire any officer after he has completed 25 years' qualifying service without giving any reasons and no claim to special compensation on this account will be entertained. This right will not be exercised, except when it is in the public interest to dispense with the further service of an officer.

Defalcation in the Revenue Department.

263. *Mr. J. John Kattakayam: Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether any means have been found out to prevent defalcations in the Revenue Department ;

(*b*) whether the Tahsildars inspect the accounts of Proverthikars every month ;

(*c*) whether the Tahsildars who failed to detect the irregularities, if any, in the accounts of Proverthikars have been punished;

(*d*) if so, the number and the names of those Tahsildars ;

(*e*) whether accounts are being examined during Jamabandi inspection ;

(*f*) the number of similar cases found out in the course of the Jamabandi inspection during the past six years, and the names of those who found them out ; and

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